




MEMORANDUM

October 4, 2011

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: David B. Levy  Chief of Long Range Planning

SUBJECT: Bus Rapid Transit in Montgomery County

On October 12, 2011, Craig Simoneau, Rockville's Director of Public Works, will provide an update on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Montgomery County. Mr. Simoneau has direct access to information on this topic through his participation in the Montgomery County Transit Task Force, to which he was appointed by County Executive Isiah Leggett. The Task Force was established earlier this year and began meeting in March. The central current responsibility of the Task Force is to study and make recommendations on implementation of a BRT system.

The Mayor and Council and Planning Commission received a briefing on the Bus Rapid Transit initiation at the June 20, 2011 Mayor and Council meeting, from Gary Erenrich of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT). In that presentation, Mr. Erenrich discussed the four potential BRT routes that have portions of their routes in Rockville. They are:

- MD 355 North: north from the Rockville Metro Station into Gaithersburg.
- MD 355 South: south from the Rockville Metro Station into and beyond White Flint.
- MD 586 / Veirs Mill Road: connecting downtown Rockville with Wheaton.
- Rockville Metro – LSC: connecting downtown Rockville to the Life Sciences Center in the Great Seneca Science Corridor master planning area.

Mr. Simoneau will discuss the progress of the task force. Information on the task force can be viewed at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/cex/transit/>.

Mr. Simoneau will also briefly discuss other BRT planning and implementation activities, including:

- The recently established State Highway Administration Veirs Mill Road Bus Rapid Transit Purpose and Need Team, which is examining the proposed Veirs Mill BRT route; and
- A project by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission – Montgomery County, to amend the County's Master Plan of Highways in order to accommodate BRT. Information on this topic can be found at <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/highways/brt.shtm>

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